



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Date October 16, 2006

Special Public Notice # 06-56

Subject: NATIONWIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE / REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

On September 26, 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue its nationwide permits (NWP).

Nationwide permits are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing the work, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs have minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts on the aquatic environment.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs: The Federal Register notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2006-0005 at www.regulations.gov. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the September 26, 2006 Federal Register notice. Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by November 27, 2006.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are important mechanisms to ensure that impacts to the aquatic environment authorized by the NWPs are minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where impacts authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure A) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the Baltimore District for Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and military installations of Northern Virginia. The Baltimore District is seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that impacts authorized by the proposed NWPs are minimal. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and military installations of Northern Virginia. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and regional conditions are to be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District Regulatory Branch, CENAB-OP-R, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland, 21203-1715. Comments relating to regional conditions are due by November 29, 2006. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or States are being published concurrently by other division or district offices.

In conjunction with the Federal Register notice, Corps districts will be announcing proposed regional conditions for these NWPs for public comment. When the final NWPs are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued at the same time so that the States and Tribes can make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions. The 401/CZMA decisions must be made within 60 days of the Federal Register notice announcing the issuance of the NWPs. After that 60-day period, the NWPs

and the regional conditions will become effective.

Draft decision documents, which include environmental documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act, have been prepared by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWP's with the requirements for issuance under general permit authority. These documents, as well as the proposed NWP's, are available for viewing at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District Office, 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201 or on the Internet at the www.regulations.gov site (docket ID number COE-2006-0005). Final decision documents will be prepared for those NWP's that are issued. In addition, supplemental decision documents will be issued by division engineers to address their determinations concerning regional conditions for the NWP's.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWP's and conditions (Enclosure B). Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWP's through www.regulations.gov (docket ID number COE-2006-0005), the Corps home page or the Federal Register address listed below.

Internet addresses:

Copies of the Federal Register notice and the draft decision documents will also be available at <http://www.regulations.gov> in docket ID number COE-2006-0005.

The Corps home page is: <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>.

As an alternate, internet users can access the Federal Register through the Government Printing Office (GPO) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.